

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 250175

22

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250175

PARIS FOR US DEL UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, JO, XF, UN

SUBJECT: U.S.-JORDANIAN BILATERAL TALKS AT UNGA

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAY AND JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM HELD BILATERAL TALK AT JORDAN'S UN MISSION OCTOBER 7. BULK OF DISCUSSION DEVOTED TO GENERAL TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST (E.G., LEBANESE SITUATION, PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF ME PEACEMAKING EFFORTS, AND CURRENT GRATIFYING STATE OF U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONS).

2. DAY TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO URGE GOJ ACQUIESCENCE AT FORTHCOMING UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN . UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD'S PROPOSAL THAT MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO REGIONAL GROUPS BE DETERMINED BY SUCH GROUPS THEMSELVES. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 250175

WOULD FORESTALL CONTENTIOUS PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

ON ISSUE OF ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP IN UNESCO'S EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUPING. IN SO DOING, IT WOULD HOPEFULLY AVOID A SITUATION THAT COULD JEOPARDIZE FUTURE U.S. PARTICIPATION IN UNESCO, PROLONG THAT ORGANIZATION'S SERIOUS FINANCIAL PLIGHT (WHICH STEMS IN LARGE MEASURE FROM CUT-OFF OF U.S. FUNDS AS RESULT OF PAST ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS IN UNESCO), AND POSSIBLY FURTHER UNDERMINE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE

UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE.

3. DAY ALSO RAISED WITH IBRAHIM OUR STRONG DESIRE TO SEE NO ACTION TAKEN AT UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT DRAFT DECLARATION ON GUIDELINES FOR MASS MEDIA, ENDORSED -- OVER STRONG U.S. OPPOSITION -- LAST DECEMBER AT A UNESCO-SPONSORED INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF EXPERTS. HE NOTED THAT THIS DRAFT DECLARATION, WHICH REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO LEGITIMIZE STATIST CONTROL OVER MASS MEDIA, IS INIMICAL TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND IS UNACCEPTABLE TO U.S. AND MANY OTHER GOVERNMENT. HE URGED GOJ TO SUPPORT OUR POSITION THAT ACTION ON THIS DECLARATION BE POSTPONED SO THAT ISSUE CAN BE CONSIDERED FURTHER IN THE CONTEXT OF ANOTHER DRAFT.

4. IBRAHIM WAS NOT FULLY FAMILIAR WITH UNESCO SUBJECTS, BUT PROMISED TO KEEP IN MIND U.S. VIEWS ON ABOVE ISSUES IN DEVELOPING GOJ POSITIONS ON VARIOUS MATTERS CONNECTED WITH UPCOMING GENERAL CONFERENCE (WHERE GOJ WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ITS MINISTER OF EDUCATION). HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USG WOULD SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF JORDAN'S KHALIL SALEM FOR ELECTION TO UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD. DAY UNDERTOOK TO HAVE THIS MATTER EXAMINED CAREFULLY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. HE INQUIRED WHETHER MR. SALEM'S CANDIDACY IS ENDORSED BY OTHER ARAB GOVERNMENTS, NOTING THAT WE GENERALLY PREFER TO SEE CANDIDACIES BACKED BY REGIONAL SUPPORT INSTEAD OF BEING FORCED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD BY FRIENDLY STATES.

5. DAY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR IBRAHIM'S ACTIVE ROLE AS A MODERATE FORCE ON KOREAN AND PUERTO RICAN QUESTIONS
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PAGE 03 STATE 250175

AT RECENT NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. IBRAHIM REPLIED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN AN EASY JOB, BUT HE WAS GLAD THAT GOJ DELEGATION WAS ABLE TO BE HELPFUL. ROBINSON

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